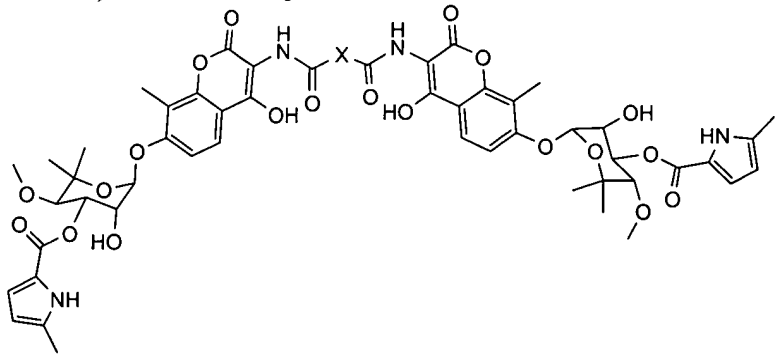
In the Claims

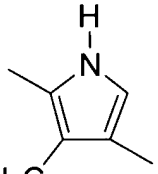
Amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently amended). A compound of the formula I:



I

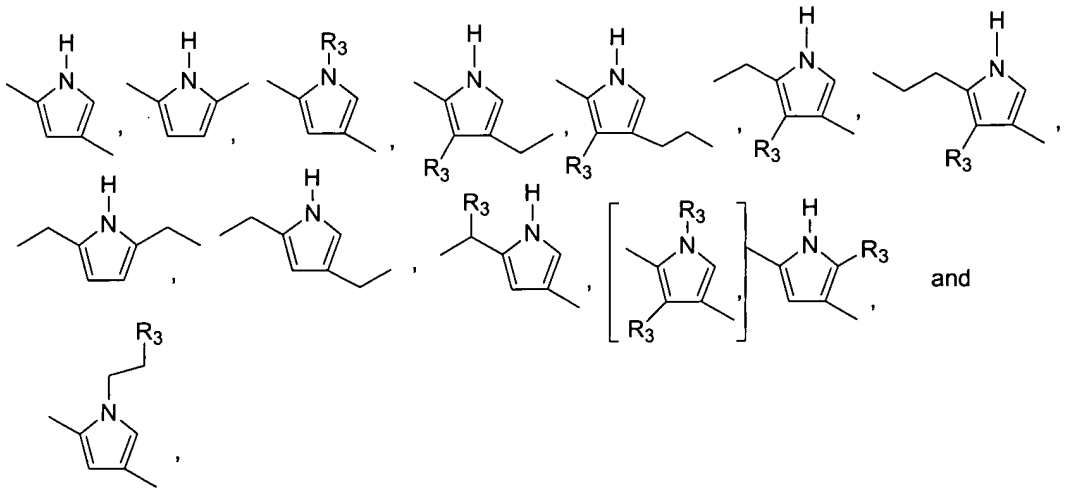
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

wherein X is a linking group selected from the group consisting of straight, branched and cyclic alkyl, aryl, diaryl, heteroaryl, said alkyl, aryl, diaryl and heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups of C_{1-6} alkyl or NH_2, alkyl with 1-3 heteroatoms in the chain, and a combination of alkyl, aryl and/or heteroaryl substituents, provided that when X is a substituted heteroaryl it is not  .

2 (Canceled).

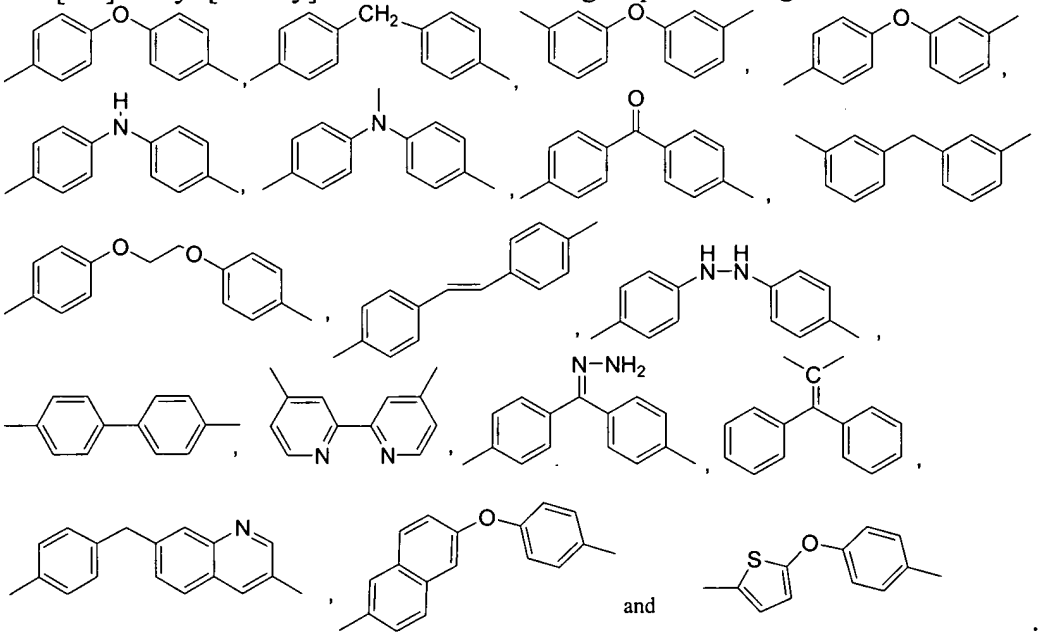
3 (Once Amended). The compound according to Claim 1 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of pyrrole, pyridine, furan, indole, benzofuran, dibenzofuran, thiophene, straight chain alkyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, diaryl and combinations thereof.

4 (Currently Amended). The compound according to Claim 3, wherein [the] pyrrolyl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of

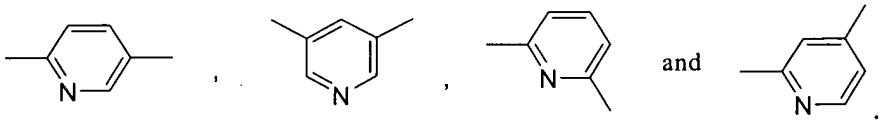


wherein R_3 is H or CH_3.

5 (Currently Amended). The compound according to Claim 3, wherein [the] diaryl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of

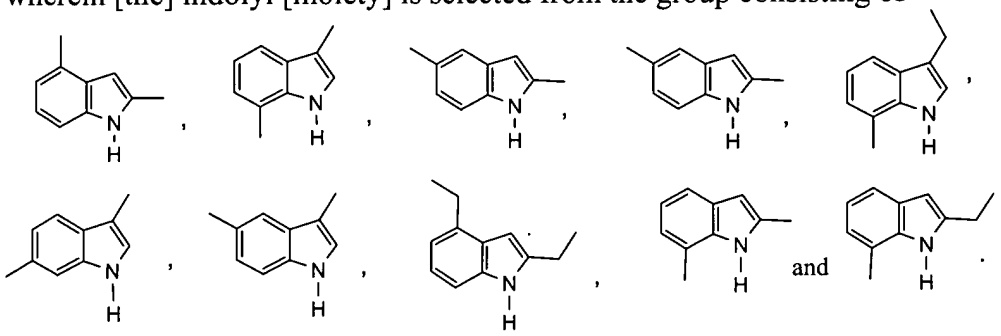


6 (Currently Amended). The compound according to Claim 3, wherein [the] pyridinyl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of

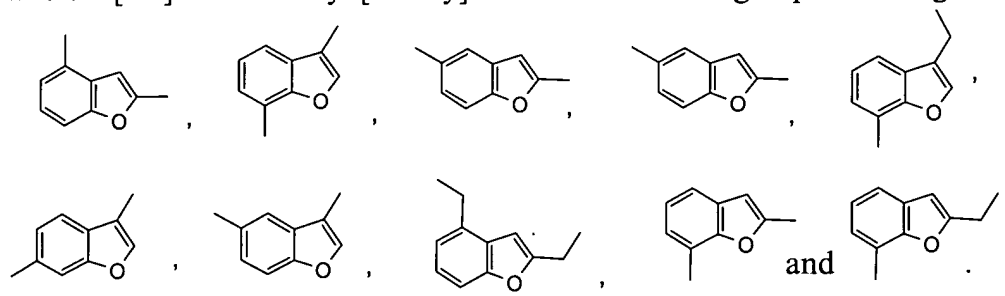


7 (Currently Amended). The compound according to Claim 3, wherein X is a straight chain alkyl [moiety] which contains between one and eighteen carbons.

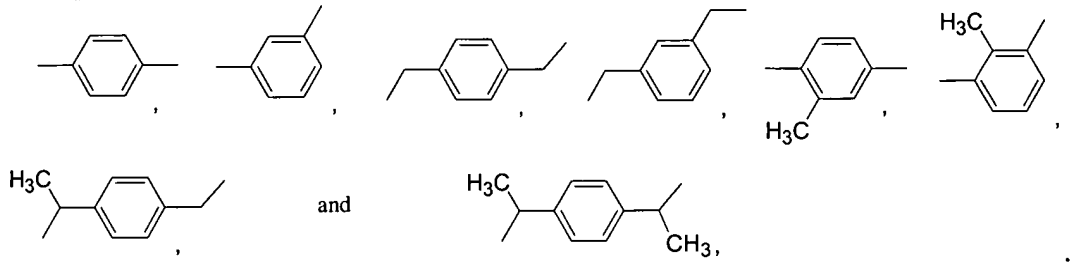
8 (Currently Amended). The compound according to Claim 3, wherein [the] indolyl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of



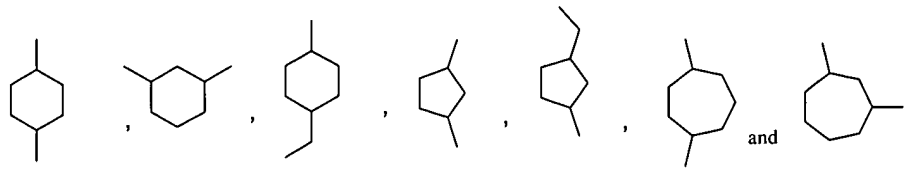
9 (Currently Amended). The compound according to Claim 3, wherein [the] benzofuranyl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of



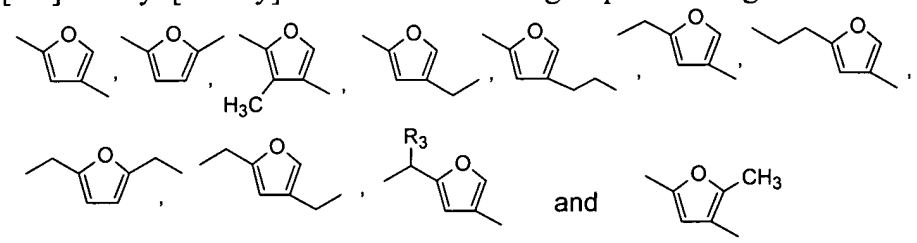
10 (Currently Amended). The compound according to Claim 3, wherein [the] phenyl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of



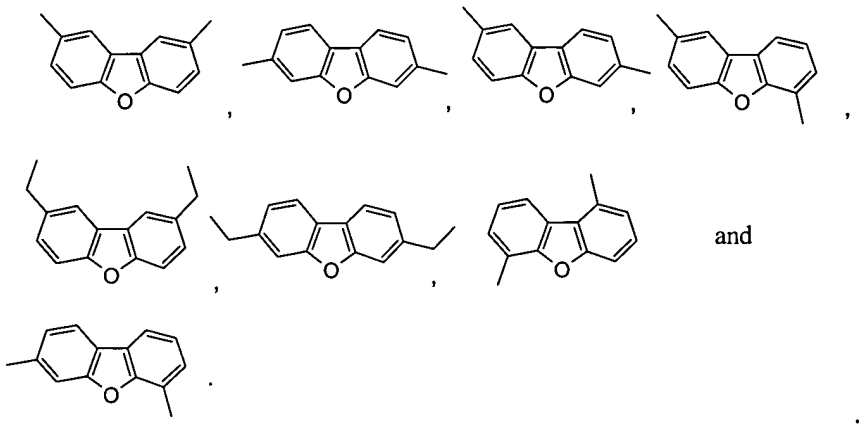
11 (Currently Amended). The compound according to Claim 3, wherein [the] cycloalkyl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of



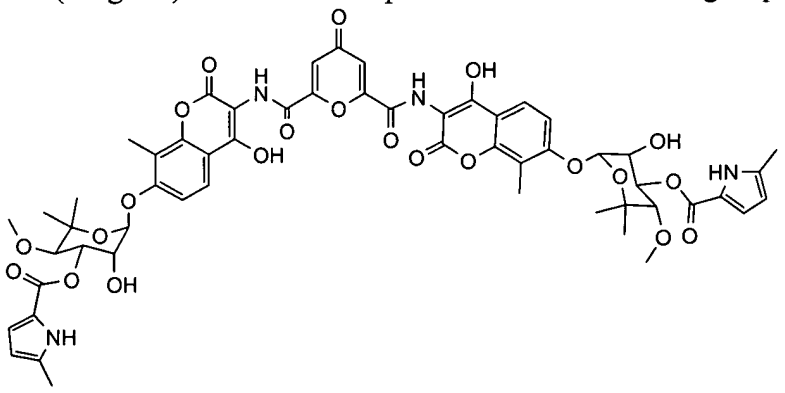
12 (Currently Amended). The compound according to Claim 3, wherein [the] furanyl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of

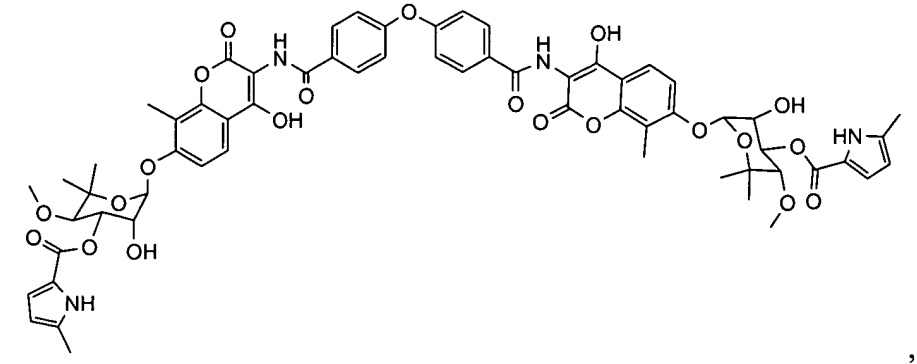


13 (Currently Amended). The compound according to Claim 3, wherein [the] dibenzofuranyl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of



14 (Original). A compound selected from the group consisting of





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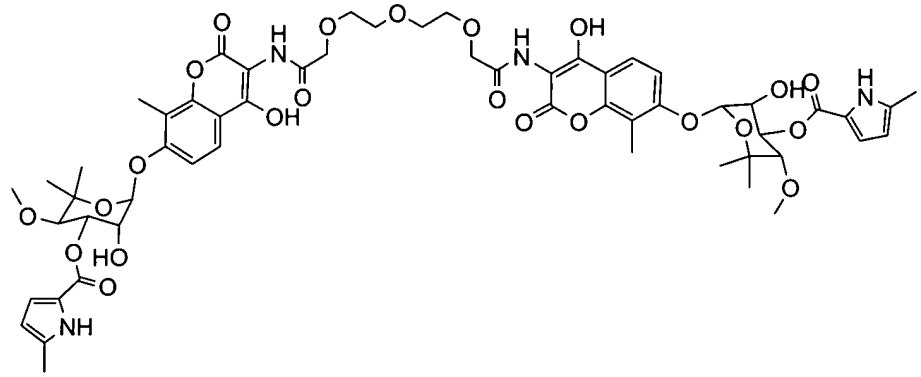

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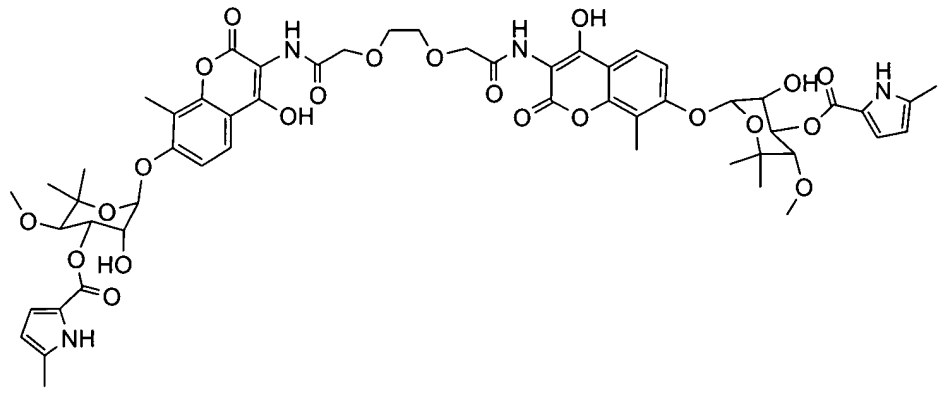

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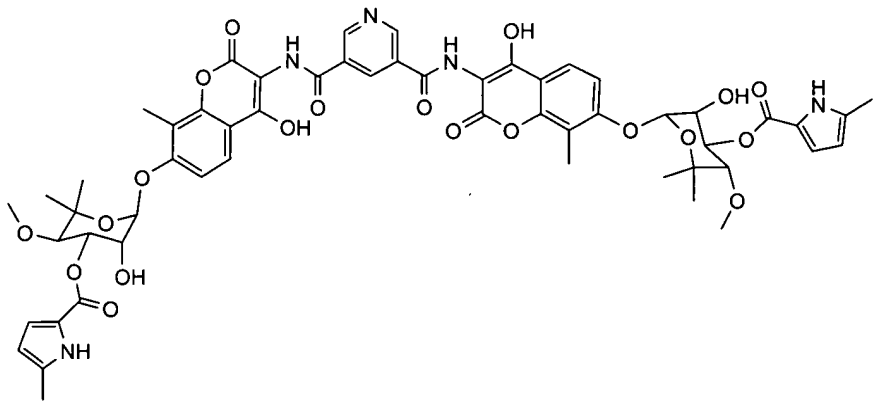

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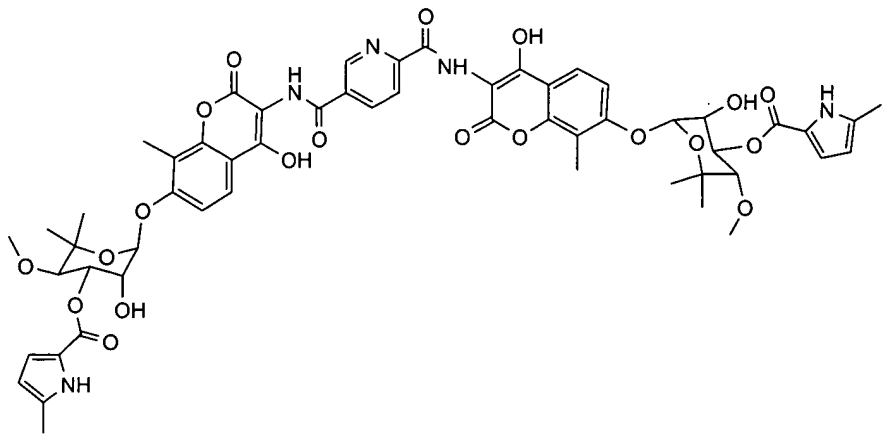

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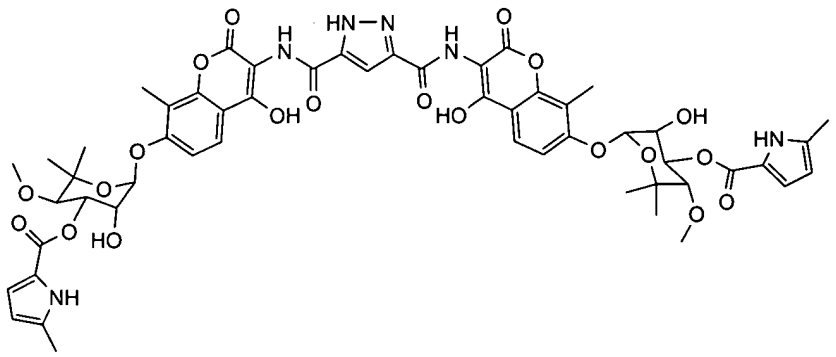

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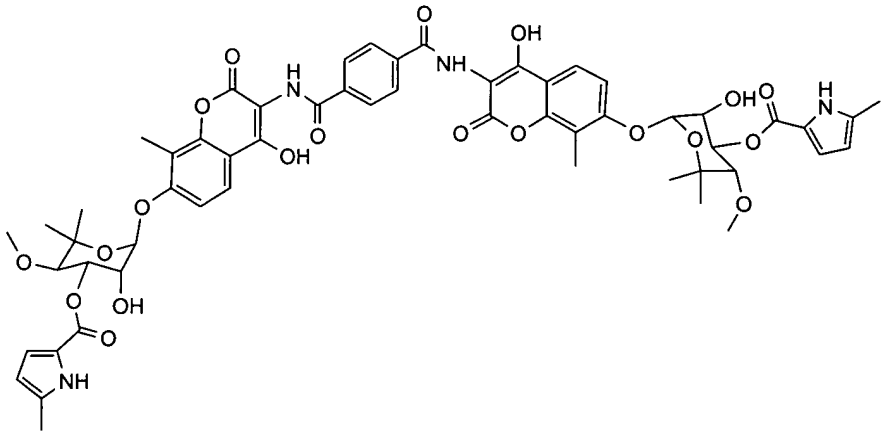

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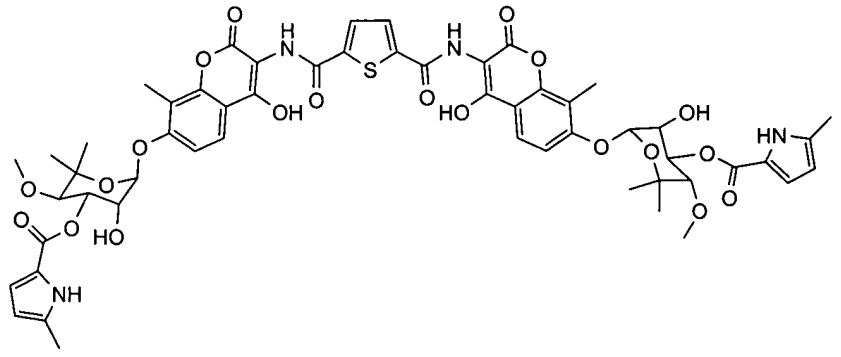
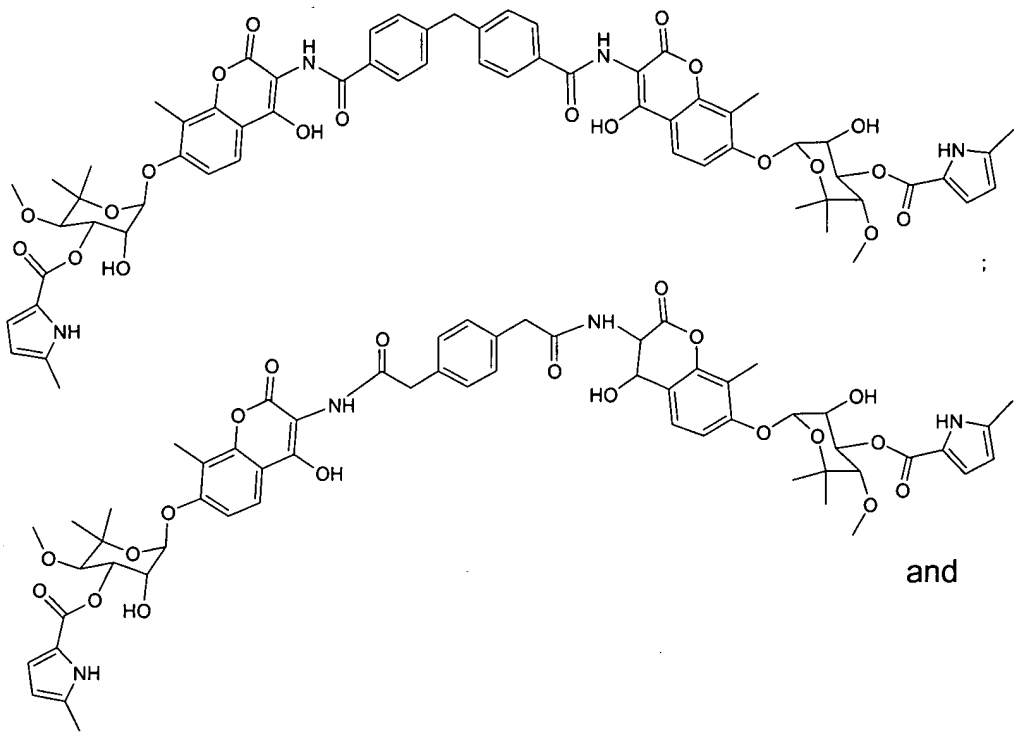
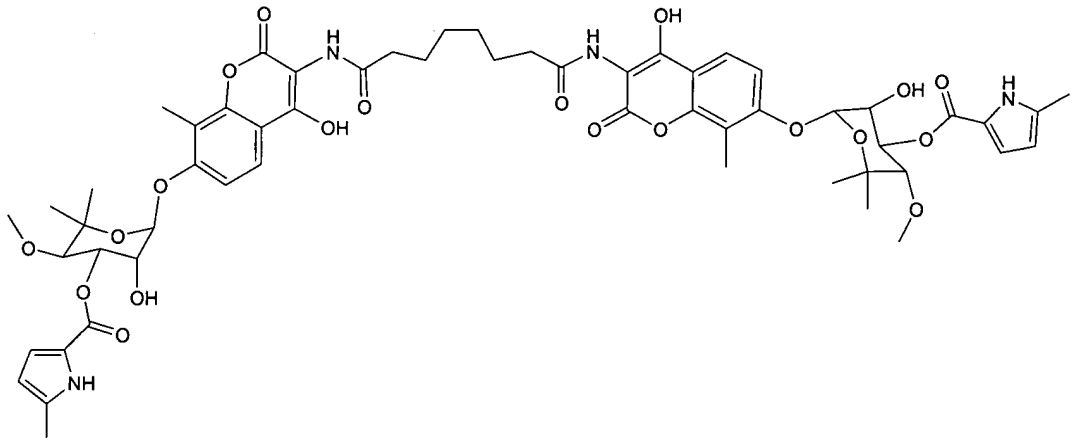
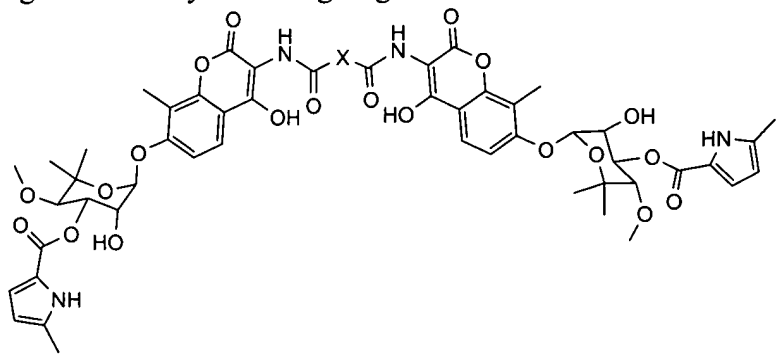




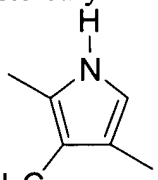
and



15 (Currently Amended). A method of chemically dimerizing chimeric proteins utilizing a coumermycin analog of general formula I:

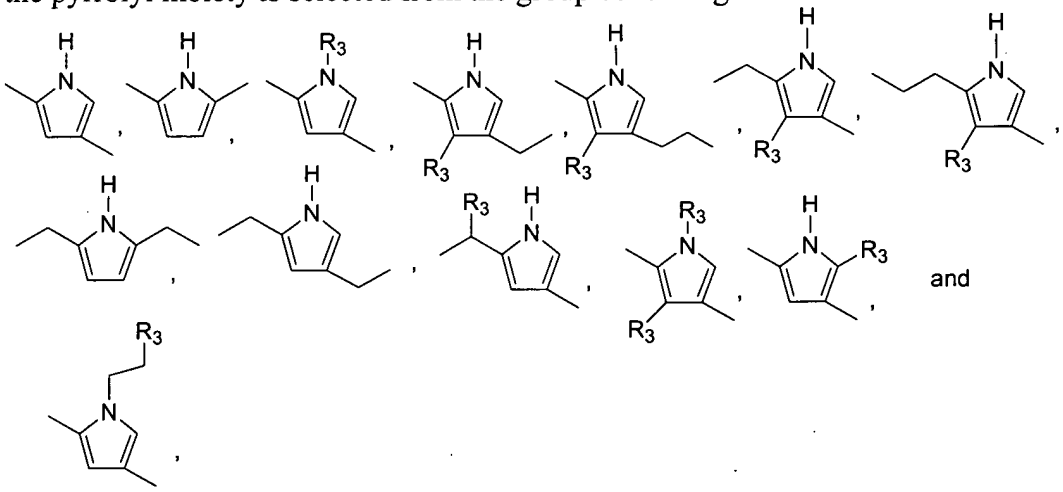


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

wherein X is a linking group X is selected from the group consisting of straight, branched and cyclic alkyl, aryl, diaryl, heteroaryl, said alkyl, aryl, diaryl and heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups of C_{1-6} alkyl or NH_2, alkyl with 1-3 heteroatoms in the chain, and a combination of alkyl, aryl and/or heteroaryl substituents, provided that when X is a substituted heteroaryl it is not  .

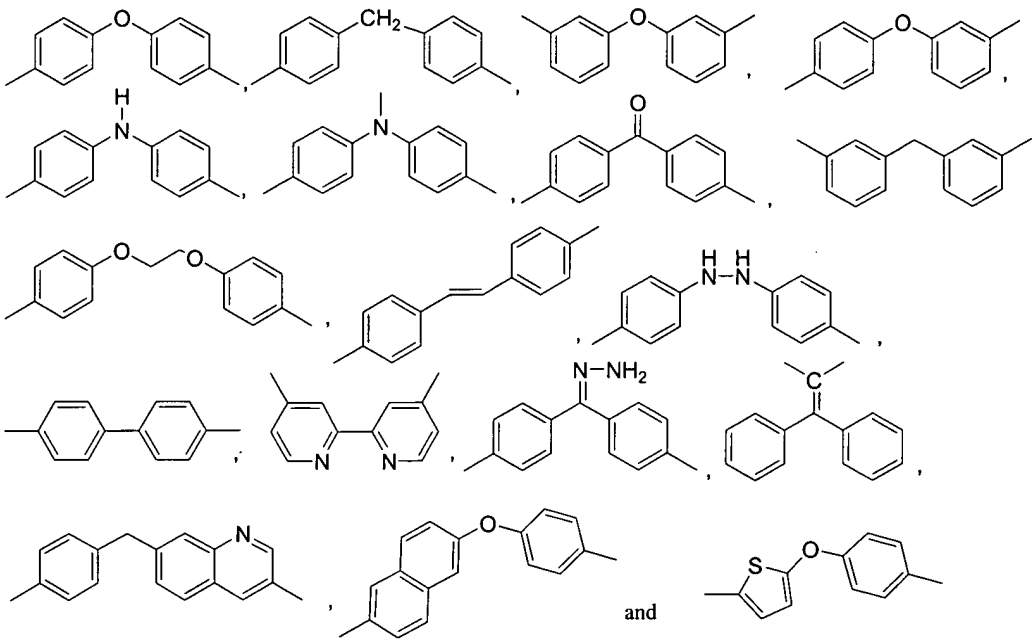
16 (Original). A method according to claim 15 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of pyridine, furan, indole, benzofuran, pyrrole, dibenzofuran, thiophene, straight chain alkyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, diaryl and combinations thereof.

17 (Currently Amended). The method according to Claim 16, wherein the pyrrolyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



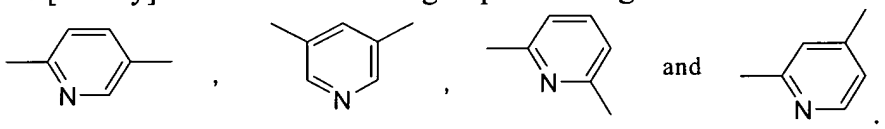
wherein R_3 is H or CH_3.

18 (Currently Amended). The method according to Claim 16, wherein [the] diaryl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of



and

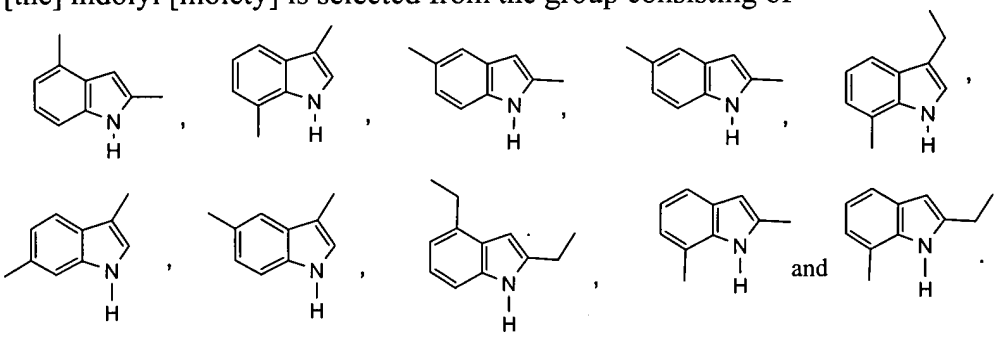
19 (Currently Amended). The method according to Claim 16, wherein [the] pyridine [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of



and

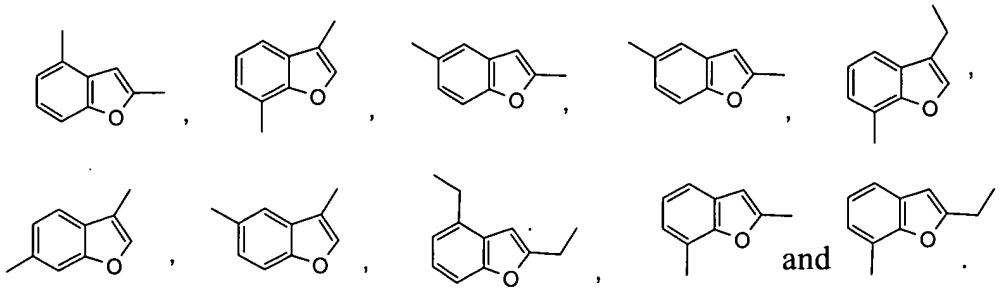
20 (Currently Amended). The method according to Claim 16, wherein the straight chain alkyl [moiety] contains from about one and about eighteen carbon atoms.

21 (Currently Amended). The method according to Claim 16, wherein [the] indolyl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of

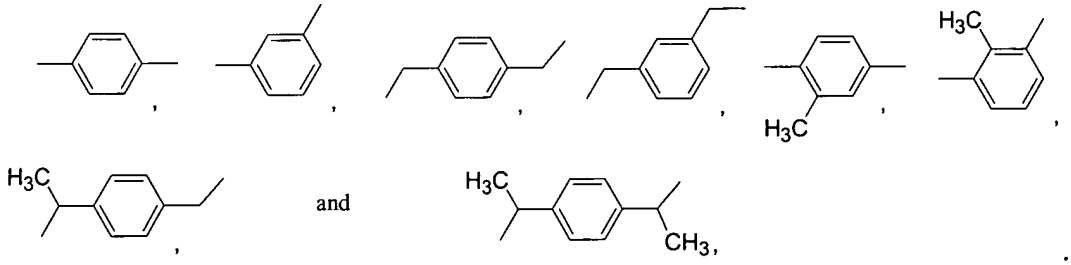


and

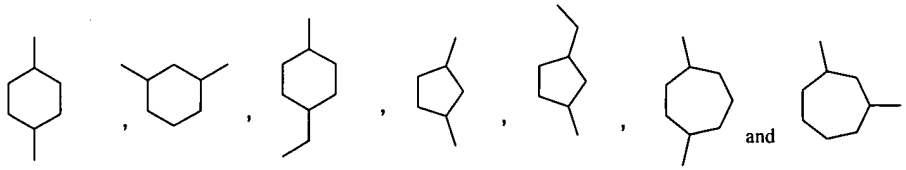
22 (Currently Amended). The method according to Claim 16, wherein [the] benzofuranyl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of



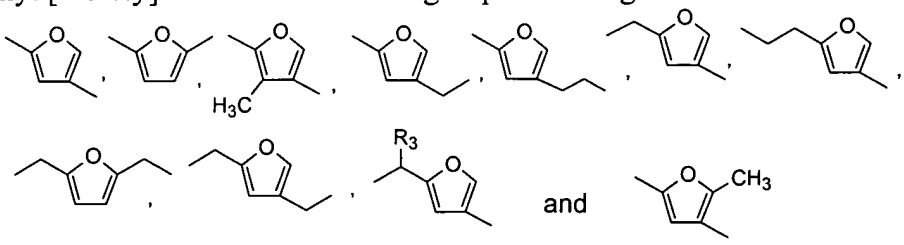
23 (Currently Amended). The method according to Claim 16, wherein [the] phenyl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of



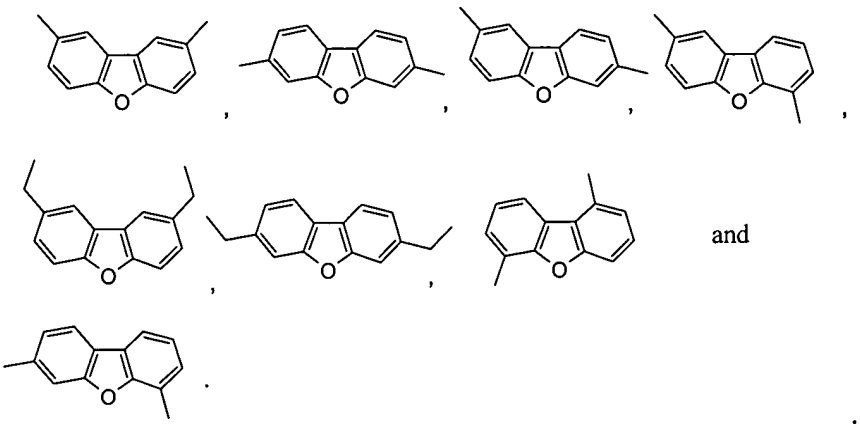
24 (Currently Amended). The method according to Claim 16, wherein [the] cycloalkyl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of



25 (Currently Amended). The method according to Claim 16, wherein [the] furanyl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of



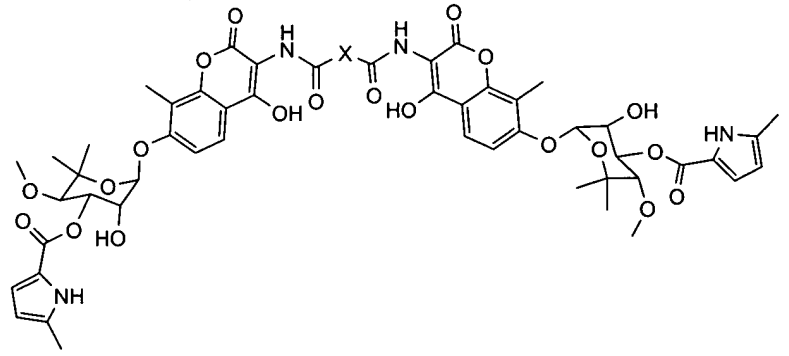
26 (Currently Amended). The method according to Claim 16, wherein [the] dibenzofuranyl [moiety] is selected from the group consisting of



and

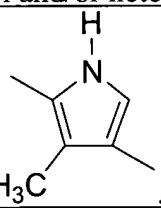
27 (Canceled).

28 (Currently). A composition useful for promoting the dimerization of chimeric signaling, intracellular proteins comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of formula I:



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

wherein X is a linking group selected from the group consisting of straight, branched and cyclic alkyl, aryl, diaryl, heteroaryl, said alkyl, aryl, diaryl and heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups of C_{1-6} alkyl or NH_2, alkyl with 1-3 heteroatoms in the chain, and a combination of alkyl, aryl and/or heteroaryl substituents, provided that when X is a substituted heteroaryl it is not  .